

Docket No.: 1081.1190

Serial No. 10/780,607

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, the Title and claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been amended. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 are respectfully requested.

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-16 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-16 are rejected.

**ITEM 3: OBJECTION TO TITLE**

Responsive to Item 3, Applicant has amended the Title to be more distinctive of the invention to which the claims are directed.

**ITEM 4: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-16 ARE OBJECTED TO AS BEING INDEFINITE FOR FAILING TO POINT OUT DISTINCT CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION;****ITEM 7: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-16 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER ADMITTED PRIOR ART OF THE APPLICATION ("AAPA") IN VIEW OF HUM ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,594,730)**

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

AAPA disclose a bus connection circuit comprising a bus interface portion.

Hum et al. discloses a PCI bridge circuit that has a plurality of request queues 140-160 and an arbiter 170 which is connected to the plurality of request queues and the memory system 210 (see FIG. 1). However, Hum et al. discloses a PCI bridge circuit, while the present invention relates to a bus connection circuit (PCI device) which is connected to a PCI bridge circuit.

In the present invention, the bus interface portion has a plurality of request lines corresponding to the allocation of the pre-fetch buffers to said bridge circuit, and outputs request signals to the request line corresponding to the request arbitrated by the arbiter (see page 12, lines 14-18, page 15, lines 11-23 and page 16, line 26-page 18, line 2 in the original specification).

Therefore, in the present invention, the PCI device efficiently utilizes a plurality of pre-fetch buffers in the bridge circuit. That is, in a waiting status of an access of the bridge circuit

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circuit after the PCI device issues an arbitrated first request, the PCI device can issue next arbitrated request to the bridge circuit so as to allocate another pre-fetch buffer.

AAPA and Hum et al. fail to disclose and suggest such features of this invention.

### CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 10, 2006

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